

Mateo Gonzalez Manrique to Andrew Jackson, November 7, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO GONZÁLEZ MANRIQUE.1

1 Copy. This letter was enclosed in Jackson's report to the Secretary of War Nov. 14, 1814; War Dept. files.

Near Pensacola, November 7, 1814.

Sir, I had the honour this moment to receive by your Aid Major Morant your answer to my note of the 6th inst. by your Corporal, requiring of you the motives which actuated you in firing on the flag sent by me and cannot from your answer draw any justification for this outrage, inasmuch as you still hold out an observance of the neutrality which ought to subsist between our governments. If, as you seem to wish me to believe, it were not necessary to send you a flag for the protection of my officer bearing the dispatches, as we were not at war, I would ask you how I could calculate on his safety without one, as you have violated this pledge of safety universally respected by civilized nations. But although your conduct on this occasion should forbid further negotiation, I am still unwilling to proceed to extremities until I have made to you the propositions which I first intended, and I now send to you by Major Peire of the 44th Infantry the letter which I first designed him to hand to you; and shall expect from you an answer by 6 A. M. which will decide the future course to be pursued by me. I shall not at this time attempt a discussion of the causes which have brought me here to make of you the demands contained in my letter of yesterday. Our respective governments and future generations will decide on whose head the blood which may be spilt, should fall.

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I am, with respect and consideration,